

November 18, 2020

Report To: Community Services Executive Committee

From: Aaron Bisson, Recreation and Culture Manager

**RE: Memorial Sports Center Expansion Grant Update**

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The Town has a grant application in final stages for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant which was to help with an expansion to the Memorial Sports Centre. This grant was applied for to help deal with some limitations we have at the MSC due to not having enough space for our current membership, and issues we are having with existing infrastructure.

Early on in the project the Federal Government expressed they would not be on board with the expansion project so that left two potential funding agencies for this expansion. The two potential funding agencies were the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant, and the Trillium foundation. We were just informed that Trillium is not going to be funding any projects like this for a while so that left our only funding source as the ICIP grant. The Town was asking for ICIP to potentially support the project to 79.3% of the costs. In conversation with a representative from the ICIP we were told that the maximum they would fund would be 50% of the project. The other information provided was that this group would not fund a project if there were no other funding agencies that would contribute to the project.

Knowing now that the chance of being successful under the ICIP grant process is extremely low due to the other funding groups backing out, the Town should pull the application from consideration and wait until a new round of programs are announced. Doing this will allow us to try and ensure this project fits under one or more of the priorities of the funding agencies. If we do not pull our application and it is rejected, we would not be able to apply for a similar project in the future.

**Recommendation**

The Community Service Division recommends to Mayor & Council to endorse the removal of the Town of Fort Frances's grant application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant process and look for future opportunities to help fund the Memorial Sports Centre Expansion Project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson  
Manager of Recreation and Culture

<p><b>Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to endorse the removal of the Town of Fort Frances's ICIP Grant Application from consideration.</b></p>
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